

John Boehner  
Chairman  
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*House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.J. Res. 54—Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment**

**H.R. \_\_\_\_—Disaster Recovery Act**



**H.J. Res. 54—Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment**

**Floor Situation:** The House is scheduled to consider H.J. Res. 54 as its first order of business. On Tuesday, the Rules Committee granted a closed rule providing two hours of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee. The rule also provides for one motion to recommit, which may include instructions only if offered by the minority leader or his designee. If the motion does include instructions, it will be debatable for one hour, equally divided between a proponent and an opponent.

**Summary:** H.J. Res. 54 proposes an amendment to the Constitution which states that “the Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” It defines neither “desecration” nor “flag,” and does not itself prohibit any action. Rather, it enables Congress and the states to enact flag-protection legislation without fear of such laws being ruled unconstitutional. During the 104th Congress, both the House and Senate considered flag desecration amendment bills. Rep. Solomon introduced H.J. Res. 79 during the 104th Congress, which passed the House by a vote of 312-120. The Senate considered an identical measure, S.J. Res. 31, but failed to gain the necessary two-thirds majority by a vote of 63-36. H.J. Res. 54 was introduced by Mr. Solomon and was ordered reported by the Judiciary Committee by a vote of 20-9 on May 14, 1997.

**Views:**

**Republican Leadership:** Supports

**Chairman Hyde:** Supports

**Clinton Administration:** No Position Available

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #16, June 6, 1997.



## **H.R. \_\_\_\_—Disaster Recovery Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House may consider H.R. \_\_\_\_ after it completes consideration of H.J.Res. 54. The Rules Committee is expected to meet today to grant a rule on the measure. On Wednesday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving the requirement for a two-thirds majority to consider a rule on the same day it is reported. At press time, additional information on the bill was unavailable. The *Legislative Digest* will provide updated information later today if it becomes available.




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